

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 CU-04 OMB-01 RSR-01 /137 W

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R 091145Z JUL 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3385

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2068

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

SUBJECT: END OF QADHAAFI VISIT

1. AHRAH'S JULY 9 HEADLINE, "QADHAAFI ENDS HIS CONSULTATIONS WITH SADAT AND RETURN TO TRIPOLI TODAY," IS FOLLOWED BY BRIEF STATEMENT THAT FINAL MEETING BETWEEN TWO LEADERS TOOK PLACE JULY 8 WITH ATTENDANCE OF: (LIBYANS) JALLUD, AL-HUNI, MUHAYSHI AND AL-MAKSABI; (EGYPTIANS) HATEM, MININTSALE, HEGAZI, HAFEZ ISMAIL, HAFEZ GHANEM AND ASHRAF MARWAN. MARWAN HAD RETURNED ON SAME DAY FROM SAUDI ARABIA WHERE, PRESS REPORTS, HE DELIVERED MESSAGE FROM SADAT TO FEISAL.

2. TWO EVENTS WHICH OCCURED OVER WEEKEND ARE INDICATIVE OF PRESENT STATE OF MERGER. FIRST IS LONG ARTICLE BY
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MUSA SABRI IN JULY 8 AKHBAR CLEARLY SETTING FORTH

RESERVATIONS WHICH EGYPTIAN HOLD ABOUT QADHAAFI'S DESIRE FOR SPEEDY MERGER WITH LIBYA, INAPPLICABILITY OF CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND THIRD THEORY, PROMULGATION OF ARCHAIC ISLAMIC LAWS IN LIBYA, DIFFERENCES OF FOREIGN POLICY TOWARD (AS EXAMPLES) ETHIOPIAN AND SOVIET UNION. FOR MOST PART, SABRI DEALS WITH INSTITUTIONAL AND CONCEPTUAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA IN HIS EDITORIAL, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME GIVING A FAIRLY DISPASSIONATE ACCOUNT OF QADHAAFI'S VIEWS. HE CONCLUDES THAT, AS HE SEES IT, SEPTEMBER 1 SHOULD BEGIN WITH ANNOUNCEMENT OF A CONFEDERAL STATE WITH A "COMBINED LEADERSHIP." A CONSTITUTION SHOULD BE DECLARED, JOINT PLANNING COUNCILS SET UP, AND UNIFIED LAWS ISSUED WHERE SUCH LAWS DO NOT DIFFER BETWEEN THE TWO STATES. "SOME INSTITUTIONS CAN BE MERGED AS PRACTICAL STEP, WHILE EACH COUNTRY MAINTAINS ITS INTERNAL STRUCTURE" UNTIL SECOND STEP IS BROUGHT ABOUT. MOST IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, IS CLEAR AGREEMENT ON ARAB AND FOREIGN POLICY; WITHOUT SUCH AGREEMENT, UNITY WILL NOT WORK.

3. SECOND EVENT IS FOUR-HOUR FORUM WHICH WAS HELD AT AKHBAR JULY 8 WITH ATTENDANCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS EGYPTIAN NEWS ESTABLISHMENTS. SABRI ACTED AS MODERATOR, AND IN JULY 9 EDITION OF AKHABAR PURPORTS TO GIVE "COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW" OF WHAT OCCURRED. TONED DOWN OR NOT, WHAT APPEARS IS A POWERFUL RECORD OF DIALOGUE BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF INCOMPATIBLE, EVEN MUTUALLY ANTAGONISTIC, MENTALITIES. BOTH SIDES, EGYPTIAN AND LIBYAN, EVINced NO CHANGE IN THEIR BASIC POSITIONS. QADHAAFI MAINTAINED THAT MATTERS WOULD WORK OUT AFTER TOTAL MERGER, BUT THAT FOR HIM A MERGED STATE MUST BE MILITANTLY ANTI-IMPERIALIST, IDEOLOGICALLY AND RELIGIOUSLY PURE, AND VULCANIZED BY THE FIRES OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. HE TRIED TO MINIMIZE DIFFERENCES BY REFUTING WILD PRESS STORIES ABOUT EVENTS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN LIBYA. HIS INTERLOCUTORS WOULD HAVE NONE OF IT. QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS MADE TO QADHAAFI REVEALED THE DEEP APPREHENSIONS FELT BY EGYPTIANS ABOUT THE EFFECTS IN EGYPT OF MOST POSITIONS QADHAAFI HAS ADOPTED SINCE HIS ARRIVAL IN POWER, AND ESPECIALLY

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SINCE HIS DECLARATION OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO WOMEN? CHRISTIANS? EGYPTIAN CULTURE? EGYPT'S OPENESS AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH OTHER STATES? AS MUCH AS MUSA SABRI'S ARTICLE OF JULY 8 CATALOGUED THE INSTITUTIONAL DIFFERENCES, THE PUBLISHED DEBATE OF SUNDAY IS A RECORD OF PERSONAL FEARS WITHIN THE EGYPTIAN ESTABLISHMENT ABOUT MERGER.

4. FROM ALL EVIDENCE, THE GAP BETWEEN EGYPTIAN AND LIBYAN POSITIONS REMAINS AS WIDE AS IT WAS UPON QADHAFI'S ARRIVAL. AT THE END OF IT ALL, THERE SEEMS TO BE GENERAL RECOGNITION--STILL--THAT MERGER WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON SEPTEMBER 1, AND THAT CERTAIN SYMBOLIC ACTS WILL BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER TO MARK THE EVENT, WHILE THE MOST IMPORTANT MATTERS ARE SPUN OUT IN COMMITTEE DISCUSSION. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER MUSA SABRI'S MORE DETAILED VIEW OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN (PARA 2 ABOVE) REPRESENTS HIS OWN THINKING OR THAT OF HIGHER AUTHORITY, BUT IT SEEMS PLAUSIBLE. IT IS OF INTEREST TO NOTE, IN ANY CASE, THAT THE CONFEDERAL CONCEPT OF MERGER'S INITIAL STEP SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN HOLD IN EGYPTIAN MINDS

5. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY FONMIN SOURCE AS INCIDENTAL FACT THAT SADAT'S VISIT TO TRIPOLI WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE EARLY IN AUGUST.
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